

# Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) Fact Sheet

## 7/2013

The Iowa Board of Nursing is pleased to be a member of the nurse licensure compact. This new form of licensure and regulation will better protect the public by:

Allowing competent nurses to provide care both physically and electronically wherever care is needed;

Providing the public ready access to and a choice of qualified nurses;

Protecting clients against incompetent nurses or unsafe nursing care through better communication between boards of nursing, cooperative disciplinary investigations and prompt reporting of disciplinary action;

Benefiting employers of nurses by having a more mobile workforce and a convenient centralized database for verification of licensure credentials.

The nurse licensure compact allows a nurse who resides in a compact state to hold ONE license in the nurse's primary state of residence and practice in all other states in which the compact is in effect. "Primary state of residence" is defined as the state where the nurse holds a driver's license, pays taxes and/or votes.

The compact requires the nurse to practice according to the laws and regulations of the state in which the nurse provides care where the patient is located at the time the care is provided. The practice laws and regulations for many states are available online. Web addresses are listed at the end of this document.

Note: A nurse who is under discipline may be in a monitoring agreement that restricts practice across state lines.

### Understanding the basics

If you hold a license in a COMPACT state and RESIDE in that COMPACT state, your license is a multistate license which authorizes you to practice in any other compact state.

If you hold a license in a COMPACT state, but do not RESIDE in that compact state (reside in a non-compact state), your license is a single state license and it authorizes you to practice only in that compact state. For example, if you hold an Iowa nursing license, but do not live in Iowa, the license is a single state license and does not grant you the privilege to practice in any other state.

If you are licensed in both Iowa and another compact state and RESIDE in the other compact state, your Iowa nursing license will be administratively placed on inactive status immediately. Only one active license can be held by a licensee among the compact states.

The compact does not supersede federal law. Therefore, if you are employed in military service or work for the federal government, you may continue to hold a nursing license in any state you

choose. If you are working as a nurse in a nongovernmental capacity, you are required to contact the state board of nursing in that state to determine if a nursing license is required.

If you **move** from one compact state to another compact state and practice nursing, you must obtain a license in your **new** home state. However, you may continue to practice under the former home state license and the multistate licensure privilege in the new home state for a period not to exceed 30 - 90 days. The 30 - 90-days begin the date that the licensee establishes the new primary state of residence. All states do **not** have the same number of days that are allowed to practice using the previous multi-state license. Contact the new home state to obtain the number of days allowed. Iowa allows 90 days to obtain an Iowa license if you have moved to Iowa from another compact state.

Web addresses and telephone number for states boards of nursing that are in the compact are as follows:

Arizona 602-889-5150 [www.azbn.gov](http://www.azbn.gov)  
Arkansas 501-686-2700 [www.arsbn.org](http://www.arsbn.org)  
Colorado 303-894-2430 [www.dora.state.co.us/nursing](http://www.dora.state.co.us/nursing)  
Delaware 302-739-4522  
[www.professionallicensing.state.de.us/boards/nursing/index.shtml](http://www.professionallicensing.state.de.us/boards/nursing/index.shtml)  
Idaho 208-334-3110 [www.www2.state.id.us/ibn](http://www.www2.state.id.us/ibn)  
Iowa 515-281-3255 [www.iowa.gov/nursing](http://www.iowa.gov/nursing)  
Kentucky 502-429-3300 [www.kbn.ky.gov/](http://www.kbn.ky.gov/)  
Maine 207-287-1133 [www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/](http://www.maine.gov/boardofnursing/)  
Maryland 410-585-1900 [www.mbon.org](http://www.mbon.org)  
Mississippi 601-987-4188 [www.msbn.state.ms.us](http://www.msbn.state.ms.us)  
Missouri 573-751-0681 <http://pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp>  
Nebraska 402-471-4376 [www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/nursingindex.htm](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/crl/nursing/nursingindex.htm)  
New Hampshire 603-271-2323 [www.state.nh.us/nursing/](http://www.state.nh.us/nursing/)  
New Mexico 505-841-8340 [www.bon.state.nm.us/index.html](http://www.bon.state.nm.us/index.html)  
North Carolina 919-782-3211 [www.ncbon.com](http://www.ncbon.com)  
North Dakota 701-328-9777 [www.ndbon.org](http://www.ndbon.org)  
Rhode Island 401-222-3352 [www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)  
South Carolina 803-896-4550 [www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing](http://www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/nursing)  
South Dakota 605-362-2760 [www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing/](http://www.state.sd.us/doh/nursing/)  
Tennessee 615-532-5166 <http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Nursing/index.htm>  
Texas 512-305-7400 [www.bne.state.tx.us/](http://www.bne.state.tx.us/)  
Utah 801-530-6628 <http://www.dopl.utah.gov/licensing/nursing.html>  
Virginia 804-367-4515 [www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing](http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing)  
Wisconsin 608-266-0145 [www.drl.state.wi.us](http://www.drl.state.wi.us)

Updated 10/13/14